

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 is the only pending claim. New dependent claim 13 is added to provide additional claim coverage. Claim 13, which depends from independent claim 1 and recites that “the elastic locking portion includes locking pieces in a shape of a tongue piece”, is fully supported at least by original claim 7.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-4 of *commonly owned* U.S. Patent No. 6,315,438 to Shirai et al. (“US ‘438”). It is the Examiner’s position that although the claims of US ‘438 are not identical to the claims of the present application, that they are not patently distinct from each other. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection in light of the fact that the claims of the present invention are directed to an invention that is patently distinct from that claimed in US ‘438.

Interview

Independent claim 1 and U.S. ‘438 were discussed during an interview with the Examiner and his supervisor conducted on November 6, 2003. On behalf of Applicant, the undersigned would like to thank for the courtesies extended during the interview.

The Examiners agreed during this interview that the rejection of record, which is a “design choice” type rejection, is inappropriate in view of the advantages of the claimed invention. During the interview, Applicant’s representative pointed out the disadvantages of a headlamp having a *screw insertion hole* with locking portions, discussed at pages 3 and 4 of the

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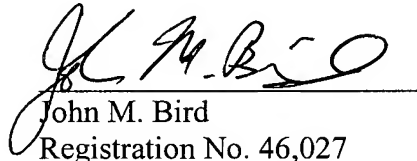
present specification, and also pointed out that the present invention, in which the *aiming screw* has locking portions, overcomes these disadvantages. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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